

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information service search support apparatus comprising:

a ~~temporary~~ search unit configured to, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, search a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to the contents of each service; and

search condition item extracting means for extracting at least one of an information item related to the information service retrieved by the ~~temporary~~ search unit and a value of the information item, from the registry and notifying the agent of at least one of the information item extracted and the value extracted as a re-search request, together with the result of the search made by the ~~temporary~~ search unit, wherein the ~~temporary~~ search unit outputs the result of the search to the search condition item extracting means when the result of the search specifies a larger number of information services than a specified number of information services.

2. (Currently Amended) The information service search support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by common category, at least one of the information item names and the item values related to the information service retrieved by the ~~temporary~~ search unit and notifies the agent of the result.
3. (Currently Amended) The information service search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the search condition item extracting means uses ontology trees to classify, by common category, at least one of the information item names and the item values related to the information service retrieved by the ~~temporary~~ search unit.
4. (Previously Presented) The information service search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by the frequency of appearance, at least one of the information item names and the item values classified by category and notifies the agent of the result.
5. (Previously Presented) The information service search support apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the search condition item extracting means determines the qualification as a search condition item of each of at least one of the information item names and the item values classified by the frequency of appearance for a search condition, on the basis of its frequency of appearance and notifies the agent of the result.

6. (Currently Amended) An information service search apparatus for searching for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, comprising:

an information service search support section; and

a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to the contents of each service, wherein

the information service search support section includes

a ~~temporary~~ search unit configured to, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for the desired information service, search the registry; and

search condition item extracting means for extracting at least one of an information item related to the information service retrieved by the ~~temporary~~ search unit and a value of the information item from the registry and notifying the agent of at least one of the information item extracted and the value extracted as a re-search request, together with the result of the search made by the ~~temporary~~ search unit, wherein

the ~~temporary~~ search unit outputs the result of the search to the search condition item extracting means when the result of the search specifies a larger number of information services than a specified number of information services.

7. (Currently Amended) The information service search apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by common category, at least one of the information item names and the item values related to the information service retrieved by the ~~temporary~~ search unit and notifies the agent of the result.
8. (Currently Amended) The information service search apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the search condition item extracting means uses ontology trees to classify, by common category, at least one of the information item names and the item values related to the information service retrieved by the ~~temporary~~ search unit.
9. (Previously Presented) The information service search apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by the frequency of appearance, at least one of the information item names and the item values classified by category and notifies the agent of the result.
10. (Previously Presented) The information service search apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the search condition item extracting means determines the qualification as a search condition item of each of at least one of the information item names and the item values classified by the frequency of appearance for a search condition, on the basis of its frequency of appearance and notifies the agent of the result.

11. (Currently Amended) An information service search method of searching for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, comprising:

a first step of, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for the desired information service, searching, on the basis of the search request, a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to the contents of each service;

a second step of extracting at least one of an information item related to the information service retrieved in the first step and a value of the information item from the registry and notifying the agent of at least one of the information item extracted and the value extracted as a re-search request, together with the result of the search in the first step, wherein the first step outputs the result of the search to the second step when the result of the search specifies a larger number of information services than a specified number of information services.

12. (Original) The information service search method according to claim 11, wherein the second step is a step of classifying, by common category, the item values for the information items related to the information service retrieved in the first step and notifying the agent of the result.

13. (Original) The information service search method according to claim 12, wherein the second step is a step of using ontology trees to classify, by common category, the item values for the information items related to the information service retrieved in the first step.

14. (Original) The information service search method according to claim 12, wherein the second step includes a third step of classifying, by the frequency of appearance, the keywords included in the item values classified by category and notifying the agent of the result.

15. (Original) The information service search method according to claim 14, wherein the second step is a step of determining the qualification of each of the keywords classified by the frequency of appearance in the third step, on the basis of its frequency of appearance and notifying the agent of the result.